United Nations A/CONF.197/MC/L.1/Add.6

Second World Assembly on Ageing
Madrid
8-12 April 2002

Distr.: Limited
11 April 2002

Original: English

Agenda item 9
Political Declaration and International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

Report of the Main Committee

Addendum

Draft political declaration

Rapporteur: Ms. Ivana **Grollová** (Czech Republic)

1. At its 3rd meeting, on 12 April 2002, the Main Committee approved the following changes to the text of the draft political declaration* and recommended them to the Assembly for adoption:

2. Articles 4 and 4 bis were deleted;

3. Article 5 was revised to read:

> "We reaffirm the commitment to spare no effort to promote democracy, strengthen the rule of law and promote gender equality, as well as to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development. We commit ourselves to eliminating all forms of discrimination, including age discrimination. We also recognize that persons, as they age, should enjoy a life of fulfilment, health, security and active participation in the economic, social, cultural and political life of their societies. We are determined to enhance the recognition of the dignity of older persons and to eliminate all forms of neglect, abuse and violence".

4. Article 6 was revised to read:

> "The modern world has unprecedented wealth and technological capacity and has presented extraordinary opportunities: to empower men and women to reach old age in better health and with more fully realized well-being; to seek the full inclusion and participation of older persons in societies; to enable older persons to contribute more effectively to their communities and to the development of their societies; and to steadily improve care and support for older persons as they need it. We recognize that concerted action is required to transform the opportunities and the quality of life of men and women as they age a[illegible] to ensure the sustainability of their support systems, thus building the foundation for a society for all ages. When ageing is embraced as an

* For the text of the draft political declaration, see A/CONF.197/3/Add.1 and 4.

02-32725 (E) 110402

achievement, the reliance on human skills, experiences and resources of the higher age groups is naturally recognized as an asset in the growth of mature, fully integrated, humane societies".

5. A new article was inserted following article 6, to read:

"6 bis At the same time, considerable obstacles to further integration and full participation in the global economy remain for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, as well as for some countries with economies in transition. Unless the benefits of social and economic development are extended to all countries, a growing number of people, particularly older persons in all countries and even entire regions, will remain marginalized from the global economy. For this reason, we recognize the importance of placing ageing in development agendas, as well as in strategies for the eradication of poverty and in seeking to achieve full participation in the global economy of all developing countries".

6. Article 8 and its alternative text were revised to read:

"We commit ourselves to the task of effectively incorporating ageing within social and economic strategies, policies and action while recognizing that specific policies will vary according to conditions within each country. We recognize the need to mainstream a gender perspective into all policies and programmes to take account of the needs and experiences of older women and men".

7. Article 9 was deleted.

8. Article 10 bis was revised to read:

"We emphasize the importance of international research on ageing and age-related issues as an important instrument for the formulation of policies on ageing, based on reliable and harmonized indicators developed by, inter alia, national and international statistical organizations".

9. Article 11 was revised to read:

"The expectations of older persons and the economic needs of society demand that older persons be able to participate in the economic, political, social and cultural life of their societies. Older persons should have the opportunity to work for as long as they wish and are able to, in satisfying and productive work, continuing to have access to education and training programmes. The empowerment of older persons and the promotion of their full participation are essential elements for active ageing. For older persons, appropriate sustainable social support should be provided".

10. Article 12 was revised to read:

"We stress the primary responsibility of Governments in promoting, providing and ensuring access to basic social services, bearing in mind specific needs of older persons. To this end we need to work together with local authorities, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, private sector, volunteers and voluntary organizations, older persons themselves and associations for and of older persons, as well as families and communities".

11. Article 12 bis was revised to read:

"We recognize the need to achieve progressively the full realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. We reaffirm that the attainment of the highest possible level of health is a most important worldwide social goal, the realization of which requires action of many other social and economic sectors in addition to the health sector. We commit ourselves to providing older persons with universal and equal access to health care and services, including physical and mental health services, and we recognize that the growing needs of an ageing population require additional policies, in particular care and treatment, the promotion of healthy lifestyles and supportive environments. We shall promote independence, accessibility and the empowerment of older persons to participate fully in all aspects of society. We recognize the contribution of older persons to development in their role as caregivers".

12. Article 14 was revised to read:

"We recognize the need to strengthen solidarity among generations and intergenerational partnerships, keeping in mind the particular needs of both older and younger ones, and encourage mutually responsive relationships between generations".

13. Article 15 and its alternative text proposed by Mexico were revised to read:

"Governments have the primary responsibility for providing leadership on ageing matters and on the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, but effective collaboration between national and local Governments, international agencies, older persons themselves and their organizations, other parts of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector is essential. The implementation of the Plan of Action will require the partnership and involvement of many stakeholders: professional organizations; corporations; workers and workers organizations; cooperatives; research, academic and other educational and religious institutions; and the media".

14. Article 16 was revised to read:

"We underline the important role of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, in assisting the Governments, at their request, in the implementation, follow-up and national monitoring of the International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002, taking into account the differences in economic, social and demographic conditions existing among countries and regions".